Final Assignment, GAM/IT/FILM 228

Rosiak

You should write an (at least) 5 page paper (double-spaced) that addresses the tasks of the question

This assignment is designed to get you synthesizing some of the ideas you have been exposed to throughout the quarter, and starting to apply them to your own life and chosen or anticipated path in life. It is something like the beginnings of authoring your own "personal mission statement." It will involve, among other things, doing some "Ethical Risk Sweeping" (identifying ethical risks in your chosen or anticipated field; see the "Ethical Toolkit" reading for more on this).

To answer the prompt, you will need to first settle on and briefly describe your chosen path (career and/or major life goals), e.g., Game Designer, Software Engineer, Director, Climate activist, etc. If you do not yet know what this will be (which is perfectly fine!), you should either attempt to anticipate this (pick one of the *possible* trajectories you think might be yours) or settle on an issue or goal that is very important to you (e.g., "Contributing to solving the environmental crisis," "Designing new cryptographic systems," "Creating a sustainable business," etc.).[1]

Having selected your chosen field/trajectory, you should answer each of the following sub-questions, one by one:

1. What are some *ethical risks* in your field? Isolate and describe these. In doing this, be sure to discuss why these particular risks are important, i.e., why focus on these and not other possible dangers? (For examples of the sorts of things one might be concerned about in, for instance, technology fields, see the subsection "Growing Concerns in Technology Ethics" in the "Overview of Ethics in Tech Practice" reading.)

2. One useful strategy, in anticipating and thinking clearly about ethical risks, is "Thinking about the Terrible People" (as described in the "Ethical Toolkit"). For this portion of the paper, you should *describe the worst case scenario* (re one of the ethical risks discussed in the previous point) and then discuss some of the particular oversights that would need to be made in order to allow this to unfold. (Tool 1 and Tool 6 (and the cases discussed there), as discussed in detail in the "Ethical Toolkit," would be especially helpful to you here.)

3. Pick one of the ethical risks you isolated in the previous steps and *outline a solution* (or at least *some of the decisive steps* that would need to be

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[1]If you are having a lot of trouble with this, email me or schedule a meeting with me and we can brainstorm some ideas.

taken on the way to a solution), and what you think *you* might be able to contribute to this solution.

4. Now thinking a little "bigger" (in less subject-centered terms), what are some of the ways you think one might effectively *reward/incentivize behaviors that contribute to solutions*, on a more global scale, to this risk?

5. In nearly every case, ethical negligence (lack of awareness of ethical risks) can lead to a number of problems that impact agents and interests in areas well beyond the narrow field in which the problem arose. One way to mitigate such oversights is to "expand the ethical circle" and invite input and perspectives beyond the narrow interests of the "circle" of agents directly involved in that field. Discuss *how you might explicitly create circumstances where the "ethical circle" of your field is expanded*, which "external" perspectives you would be especially interested in soliciting, and how you anticipate these "expansions" would change your field's approach to the particular ethical risk you have been focusing on.

6. List and describe at least 5 general ethical "best practices" in your chosen field. (The "Best Ethical Practices in Technology" reading might be helpful here.)

7. For each of the 5 practices discussed in the previous item, isolate the key *values* or *value judgments* underlying your choice. (What I mean is: if, for instance, you claim that "Ensuring Privacy of Data" is a best practice, describe the values that are implicit in identifying this as important.) Then, picking on one of these, provide a detailed *argument* unpacking these values. (We will go over an example in class.)

§This assignment is due by 11:59pm on 11/25, submitted to me through the Final Paper Submission Folder on D2L.